

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a media processor to host a new conference, comprising:

receiving, by a multipoint controller, an indication of a need for a media processor to host a new conference;

determining by the multipoint controller, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of [[a]] the multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors based on a current number of conference participants on each of said plurality of media processors and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors in accordance with the following expression:

$$\text{NbChannels} = \text{CurrentNbChannels} \times ((\text{MaxCPUUtil}/\text{CurrentCPUUtil}) - 1)$$

where NbChannels is a number of new conference participants or channels each media processor can support, CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, [[and]] CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor, the value of CurrentNbChannels is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero, and the value CurrentCPUUtil is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero; and

determining which one of said plurality of media processors is to host said new conference based, at least in part, on said determined number of additional participants

that each of said plurality of media processors can support, where the number of participants in said new conference is not known at the time of the determining of the number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors, the number of participants in said new conference may dynamically change, and at least two of said plurality of media processors operate on different devices having different capabilities.

2. (Cancel).

3. (Cancel)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference includes receiving a request for allocation of a media processor for said new conference.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing data indicative of said one of said plurality of media processors.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

allocating said one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a value representative of a maximum CPU utilization percentage associated with each of said plurality of media processors.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a media processor to host a new conference, comprising:

receiving, by a multipoint controller, an indication of a need for a media processor to host a new conference;

determining by the multipoint controller, for each of a plurality of media processors under the control of [[a]] the multipoint controller, a current number of conference participants and a current CPU utilization; and

determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference based, at least in part, on said determined current number of conference participants and based on said determined current CPU utilization for each of said plurality of media processors, in accordance with the following expression:

$$\text{NbChannels} = \text{CurrentNbChannels} \times ((\text{MaxCPUUtil}/\text{CurrentCPUUtil}) - 1)$$

where NbChannels is a number of new conference participants or channels each media processor can support, CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, [[and]] CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor, the value of CurrentNbChannels is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero, and the value CurrentCPUUtil is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero, and where the number of participants in said new conference is not known at the time of the determining of the number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors, the

number of participants in said new conference may dynamically change, and at least two of said plurality of media processors operate on different devices having different capabilities.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes selecting one of said plurality of media processors based on each of said plurality of media processors ability to support participants in said new conference.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes selecting one of said plurality of media processors that can support a highest number of participants in said new conference.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes determining a number of new participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors.

12. (Cancel)

13. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a device having a processor and a multipoint controller operating on said device, wherein said multipoint controller controls a plurality of media processors and said

multipoint controller is adapted to select a first media processor from said plurality of media processors to support a new conference based on said first media processor's ability to support more additional participants than other media processors in said plurality of media processors based, at least in part, on said first media processor's current number of conference participants and based on current CPU utilization percentage in accordance with the following expression:

$$\text{NbChannels} = \text{CurrentNbChannels} \times ((\text{MaxCPUUtil}/\text{CurrentCPUUtil}) - 1)$$

where NbChannels is a number of new conference participants or channels each media processor can support, CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, [[and]] CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor, the value of CurrentNbChannels is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero, and the value CurrentCPUUtil is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero, where the number of participants in said new conference is not known at the time of the determining of the number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors, the number of participants in said new conference may dynamically change, and at least two of said plurality of media processors operate on different devices having different capabilities.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein at least two of said plurality of media processors are implemented in software and operate on different devices.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said multipoint controller is adapted to determine a current number of conference participants for at least some of said plurality of media processors.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Cancel)

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor;

a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with at least one device; and

a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

receive an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference;

determine, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors based on a current number of conference participants on each of said plurality of media processors and based on a current CPU utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors in accordance with the following expression:

$$\text{NbChannels} = \text{CurrentNbChannels} \times ((\text{MaxCPUUtil}/\text{CurrentCPUUtil}) - 1)$$

where NbChannels is a number of new conference participants or channels each media processor can support, CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media processor, CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for the media processor, the value of CurrentNbChannels is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero, and the value CurrentCPUUtil is set to one for determining NbChannels if it is zero; and

determine one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference based, at least in part, on said determined number of additional participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support, where the number of participants in said new conference is not known at the time of the determining of the number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors, the number of participants in said new conference may dynamically change, and at least two of said plurality of media processors operate on different devices having different capabilities.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said processor is further adapted to provide data indicative of said one of said plurality of media processors.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said processor is further adapted to allocate said one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference.

21. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when
executed by a processor, cause said processor to:

receive an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference;

determine, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a
multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported by each
of said plurality of media processors based on a current number of conference
participants on each of said plurality of media processors and based on a current CPU
utilization percentage for each of said plurality of media processors in accordance with
the following expression:

$$\text{NbChannels} = \text{CurrentNbChannels} \times ((\text{MaxCPUUtil}/\text{CurrentCPUUtil}) - 1)$$

where NbChannels is a number of new conference participants or channels each
media processor can support, CurrentNbChannels is a value indicating the current
number of conference participants on a media processor, MaxCPUUtil is a constant
value indicating a maximum CPU utilization percentage allowed for the media
processor, CurrentCPUUtil is a value indicating a current CPU utilization percentage for
the media processor, the value of CurrentNbChannels is set to one for determining
NbChannels if it is zero, and the value CurrentCPUUtil is set to one for determining
NbChannels if it is zero; and

determine one of said plurality of media processors to said host new conference
based, at least in part, on said determined number of additional participants that each of
said plurality of media processors can support and based on a current CPU utilization
percentage for each of said plurality of media processors, where the number of
participants in said new conference is not known at the time of the determining of the
number of additional participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of
media processors, the number of participants in said new conference may dynamically

change, and at least two of said plurality of media processors operate on different devices having different capabilities.